

The History Council of NSW  
is pleased to award the



• ANNUAL HISTORY CITATION •

for  
2014  
to

*Dr Shirley Fitzgerald*

In recognition of her outstanding contributions  
as an historian to teaching, scholarship and the community.

Awarded 9 September 2014

Emeritus Professor Richard Waterhouse  
and Dr Tanya Evans

THE HISTORY COUNCIL OF NSW



historycouncilnsw



## • ANNUAL HISTORY CITATION •

2014

*Dr Shirley Fitzgerald*

The Annual History Citation, awarded by the History Council of New South Wales, recognises and honours an individual who has made a significant and lifelong contribution to the profession and practice of history. For 2014 the History Council of New South Wales is pleased to award the Annual History Citation to Dr Shirley Fitzgerald in recognition of her outstanding contributions as an historian to teaching, scholarship and the community.

A PhD at Macquarie University (awarded 1976) under the supervision of the late Max Kelly set Shirley on the path of Sydney's history and ultimately public history. Her thesis became *Rising Damp: Sydney, 1870-90*, a landmark book in urban history that challenged conventional interpretations of working class living conditions. It quickly became a model for progressive urban historians.

Her academic career included appointments at Macquarie University (1972-76), the University of New England (1976-1986) and in 1993 she inaugurated a Master of Letters in Public History at the University of Sydney (1993-1995).

In 1987 Shirley Fitzgerald was appointed the Sesquicentenary Historian at the City of Sydney Council to mark 150 years of City governance. The final output of this appointment included the publication of six books, several co-authored or published under her supervision; these social histories and detailed political histories remain key publications in Sydney's historiography.

Shirley Fitzgerald's appointment as the inaugural City Historian followed in 1997, a position she held until 2009. Shirley produced a range of histories including a history of East Circular Quay 1788-1998, Sydney's Chinese, and an overview history of Sydney to accompany an Imax film. She also commissioned histories and broadened the City of Sydney's public history program. Always innovating, Shirley helped establish and was the inaugural Chair for the Dictionary of Sydney Trust, an ambitious digital history project that encompasses all of metropolitan Sydney. This continues to grow, connecting communities, cultural institutions and the world to Sydney's history.

While in the role of City Historian, Shirley became actively involved in the public history sector. She has been President of the Professional Historians' Association NSW (1992-95), Member of the History Advisory Panel of the Heritage Council (1994-97), President of the History Council of NSW (1996-99), Trustee of Historic Houses Trust of NSW (1996-98), and Chair of the State Records Authority of NSW (2001-2006). Shirley was awarded a Centenary of Federation Medal for 'services to heritage'.

Sydney and Australia have been most fortunate in having a historian of the calibre and fortitude of Dr Shirley Fitzgerald. She continues to contribute to the field of public and professional history. She is a highly worthy recipient of the Annual History Citation.

The History Council of New South Wales is honoured to celebrate Dr Fitzgerald's achievements.